

M O N O D Y
ON
LOUIS, XVI.
L A T E K I N G
OF
F R A N C E.

RAGE on, ye elements, in vain
Ye urge the black prophetic storm,
And whistling winds and rattling rain,
The face of heav'n and earth deform
In vain, when prescient fates entwine
Fair Austria's branch with kingly Bourbon's line:
Nor hail, nor rain, nor blust'ring whirlwind's ire
Shall bid the pompous train retire.
To love's pure shrine great Gallia's father brings,
'Midst peals of thousands animating cries,
The pride of heroes and the loins of kings,
Sound, found his name, ye nations, to the skies;
O'er half the world extend his wide domain,
And glory, glory, glory crown the monarch's reign.

II.
Each guest the regal banquet shares,
The roofs with lab'ring anthems ring,
Each heart exults, each tongue prepares
To hail the bridegroom in their king.
What means that secret mystic sigh?
That tear, O king, sad stealing in thine eye?
Lo! swords in flaming millions round thee shine,
And lives of millions live on thine.
Whence rise those fears?—in vain a short reply.—
Amaz'd like Syria's heav'n-struck lord he stands,
Ghastly he views with intellectual eye,
The hideous, bloodless, visionary bands:
Those bands enclos'd in death's eternal womb,
Whose matin sung his praise, now dirge his hapless doom.

III. Shade



*Louis XVI, King of France.
as he appeared before the National Convention.
on the 10th August 1792.*

III.
Shade of Lamballe inspire my lays,
The tale thy voice can best define:
You saw his radiant glory blaze,
You wept his splendors dark decline.
No cares consume, no tears now flow,
But round thy temples hangs the heav'n arch'd bow.
In pity turn, regard thy mourner's call,
And shield him through the regal hall.
Amaze! what horrors strike my startled view!
Blood, rapine, rage, the pompous dome defiles:
Mad tumult raves, loud faction's sanguine crew
O'er prostrate majesty insulting smiles.
No base-born slaves their sovereign's will adore,
But spurn their abject lord, and mingle in the roar.

IV.
Thou king without a kingly claim,
Of sceptred griefs the mournful heir,
Subdu'd thy voice, belied thy fame,
Who now thy poignant woes shall share?
Alas! the dungeon's dreary round
Alone bears witness to thy plaintive found.
But hark! what distant noise invades mine ear!
Lo! death's black messenger's appear:
Thy doom their terror-darting looks explain,
Ill-fated Lewis, son of many a woe—
Ye state-rob'd villains, hence your rage refrain,
Your king, your father, in your captive know.
—Vain weeps the muse, as vain weak nature cries,
And heav'n's anointed king, by ruffian fury dies.

V.
The reeking steel its rage lays down,
With monarch's blood its famine fed,
And Lewis, gem of Bourbon's crown,
Safe sleeps among the matchless dead.
Yet sleeps revenge 'midst Gaul's alarms?
Ye slumbering nations wake, arise to arms.
When man with guileless blood his hand profanes,
To smite the guilty, heav'n ordains,
Arise in might, avert the cause of blood,
Which on thee France, in sev'n-fold vengeance waits,
To drench thy people in a sanguine flood,
And urge the furies of vindictive fates:
Thy prostrate land at every vein shall bleed,
And shame, eternal shame shall chronicle thy deed. G. R.-lds.

The SENTENCE, EXECUTION, ANECDOTES, and CHARACTER, of LOUIS, XVI.

Decrees of the National Convention of the 15th, 17th, 19th, and 20th of January, 1793.

ARTICLE I.

THE National Convention declares LOUIS CAPET, last King of the French, guilty of conspiracy against the Liberty of the Nation, and of a crime against the general safety of the State.

II. The National Convention declares, that LOUIS CAPET shall undergo the punishment of DEATH.

III. The National Convention declares, that the act of LOUIS CAPET, brought to the bar by his Council, and termed an Appeal to the Nation on the sentence passed against him in the Convention, is null; and forbids every person from giving it authority, on pain of being prosecuted, and punished as guilty of a crime against the general safety of the Republic.

IV. The temporal Executive Council shall notify the present Decree, within the Day, to LOUIS CAPET, and shall take necessary measures of police and safety to secure its execution within twenty-four hours, reckoning from the notification, and shall render an account of the whole to the National Convention immediately after his Execution.

Report of the Council who communicated the decree to LOUIS.

The Executive Council was convoked and assembled at a very early hour this morning, in order to consult on the execution of a decree relative to LOUIS CAPET.

The Council then sent for the Mayor of Paris, the Commandant General, the President, and the Accusateur Public of the criminal tribunal: After having consulted with these constituted authorities, the minister of Justice, the President of the Executive Council, a Member of the Council, the Secretary of the Council, and two members of the Department repaired to the Tower in the Temple.

At two o'clock they were conducted before LOUIS, to whom the minister of Justice, as President of the Executive Council, spoke as follows:

LOUIS, the Executive Council hath charged us to notify to you the extracts of the *Process-verbal* of the National Convention of the 15th, 17th, and 19th, of the present month: the Secretary will now read them.—[On this the Secretary of the Executive Council read the four above Articles.]

LOUIS then observed he had something to say; on which he took out the following requisition, written with, and signed by his own hand.

"I demand a delay of three days, in order to enable me to appear in the presence of Almighty God; and the better to effect this, I request leave to call to my aid the Ex-bishop of Fermont, who lodges at No. 483, Rue de Bacq."

"I demand that his person be protected from all manner of insult, in order that he may be enabled to deliver himself up without fear to the work of charity which he is about to be employed in, with respect to me."

"I demand to be freed from the perpetual inspection which the general Council of the commons has made use of towards me for some time past."

"I demand, that during this interval, I may be permitted to see my family, without any witness, every time that I solicit this permission."

"I desire that the National Convention may deliberate immediately about the fate of my family, and that they may be permitted to retire wherever the please."

"I recommend all the persons who were attached to me, to the care and protection of the Nation. There are many of them who have expended the whole of their fortunes in order to purchase their places, and must consequently be in great distress."

"Among the pensioners are a great number of old men, and of poor people burthened with large families, who have not any thing to subsist on but the allowance which I paid them."

"Given at the Tower in the Temple,

January 20, 1793.

(Signed)

"LOUIS."

The Convention having heard the Report of the Minister, decrees,

That the respite demanded by LOUIS shall not be granted.

That vigilance of the Municipality shall be continued in the chamber adjoining that of LOUIS. Respecting the other points, the Convention passes to the order of the day, considering that the Committee of Legislation is competent thereto.

ORDERS FOR THE DAY.

January 20th, 1793.—Second Year of the Republic.

The Provisional Executive Council, after deliberating on the measures to be taken, in order to execute the decrees of the National Convention of the 15th, 17th, 19th, and 20th of January, 1793, has ordered as follows:

1. That the execution of the Judgment of LOUIS CAPET shall take place to-morrow, Monday the 21st.

affecting to the last degree; the distress of the Queen passed all description. He left the Temple agreeable to the Instructions from the provincial Council, at eight o'clock, at which time the mournful procession set out from the Temple. The royal victim sat in the Mayor's Carriage, with his confessor by his side, praying very fervently, and two Captains of National Light Horse on the front seat. The carriage was drawn by two black horses, preceded by the Mayor, General Santerre, and other Municipal Officers. One squadron of horse, with trumpeters and kettle-drums, led the van of this melancholy convey; three heavy pieces of ordnance, with proper implements, and cannoniers, with lighted matches, went before the vehicle, which was escorted on both sides by a trobble row of troopers.

The train moved on with a slow pace from the Temple to the *Boulevards*, which was planted with cannon, and beset with National Guards, drums beating, trumpets sounding, and colours flying. The *Guillotine* was erected in the middle of the square, directly facing the gate of the garden of the *Tuileries*, between the Pedestal on which the grand-father of LOUIS was standing before the 10th, of August, and the avenues which led to the groves, called the *Elysian Fields*. The trotting and neighing of horses, the shrill sound of the trumpet, and the continual beating of drums, pierced the ears of every beholder, and heightened the terrors of the awful scene.

The Scaffold was high and conspicuous, and the houses surrounding the place of Execution were full of women, who looked through the windows. The very fates which covered the roofs were raised for the curious and interested to peep through.

The King alighted from the carriage at twenty minutes past ten. His hair was dressed in curls, his beard shaved; he wore a clean shirt and stock, a white waistcoat, black florentine silk breeches, black silk stockings, and his shoes were tied with black silk strings. At the foot of the scaffold he threw off his coat himself, and finding some difficulty in unbuckling his stock, he calmly thanked a by-stander who assisted him.—His hair was then cut off, when he took leave of his confessor, who shed a thousand tears on this mournful occasion.—He then ascended the steps of the scaffold with heroic assurance, and every feature of his majestic countenance bespoke the calm serenity of conscious innocence, and the heroic fortitude of a Christian. Having walked half round the horrid preparations, he then beckoned with his hand to be heard; the noise of warlike instruments ceased for a moment; but soon after a thousand voices vociferated with detestable ferocity, "No speeches! No harangues!" The unfortunate Monarch wrung his hands—lifted them up towards Heaven—and with agony in his eye and gesture, exclaimed, distinctly enough to be heard by those persons who were next to the Scaffold, "To thee, O God, do I commend my soul! I forgive my enemies! I die Innocent!"

He was then seized by the Executioners, dressed in black, and they immediately tied a plank of about eighteen Inches broad, and an inch thick, to his body, as he stood upright, fastening it about his arms, belly and legs; this plank was about four feet long, and came almost up to his chin. The Executioner directly laid him upon his belly on the bench and lifted up the upper part of the board which was to receive his neck, adjusted his head properly, then shut the board, and pulled a string which was fastened to the peg at the top of the machine, which lifted up a latch, and down came the axe; The head was off in a moment, and fell into a basket which was ready to receive it; the Executioner took it out by the hair, to shew the populace, and then put it in another basket along with the body.—The final part of his execution, was exactly twenty two minutes past ten.

After his head was cut off, the *Sans Culottes* and *Jacobins* waved their hats in the air, exclaiming, *Vive la Nation! Vive la Republique!* The music struck up *Ca Ira*, and the body was immediately removed in a black coffin.—The procession returned to the Temple in full Gallop, and the sworn Deputies went to make their report.

The following Anecdotes shew that for some Time he had been expecting his Fate.

LOUIS saw his last moment approaching with coolness and tranquility. It is long since he resolved to sacrifice life, if we may judge from the two following anecdotes.

Two years ago, M. de Liancourt representing to LOUIS, that the modifications and the *veto* which he opposed to certain Decrees might be dangerous "What can they do?" replied LOUIS, "They will put me to death—well, I shall obtain an immortal for a mortal crown."

The other anecdote is more recent, and proves, like the former, that LOUIS did not fear death.—On the day that Deseze made his defence in the convention, Malasherbes, in a conversation which he had with LOUIS in the evening, wished to prepare him for the event, by hinting that his defence might not be attended with the desired effect, and that the issue of the trial was uncertain. "I understand you," replied LOUIS; "but my resolution is already taken. I see, without fear, my last hour approaching; and I shall lay my head on the block without uneasiness. You will perhaps be surprised when I tell you, that my wife and sister think exactly as I do."

We shall now close our account of this much lamented Prince, by delineating the more particular traits of his character, as they have been exhibited by authors of the greatest eminence in the present day.

This Monarch ascended the throne of France, amidst the general joy and acclamations of the nation, which, though it beheld him

"I demand that his person be protected from all manner of insult, in order that he may be enabled to deliver himself up without fear to the work of charity which he is about to be employed in, with respect to me.

"I demand to be freed from the perpetual inspection which the general Council of the commons has made use of towards me for some time past.

"I demand, that during this interval, I may be permitted to see my family, without any witness, every time that I solicit this permission.

"I desire that the National Convention may deliberate immediately about the fate of my family, and that they may be permitted to retire wherever they please.

"I recommend all the persons who were attached to me, to the care and protection of the Nation. There are many of them who have expended the whole of their fortunes in order to purchase their places, and must consequently be in great distress.

"Among the pensioners are a great number of old men, and of poor people burthened with large families, who have not any thing to subsist on but the allowance which I paid them.

"Given at the Tower in the Temple,

January 20, 1793.

(Signed)

"LOUIS."

The Convention having heard the Report of the Minister, decrees,

That the respite demanded by Louis shall not be granted.

That vigilance of the Municipality shall be continued in the chamber adjoining that of Louis. Respecting the other points, the Convention passes to the order of the day, considering that the Committee of Legislation is competent thereto.

ORDERS FOR THE DAY.

January 20th, 1793.—Second Year of the Republic.

The Provisional Executive Council, after deliberating on the measures to be taken, in order to execute the decrees of the National Convention of the 15th, 17th, 19th, and 20th of January, 1793, has ordered as follows:

- I. That the execution of the Judgment of Louis CAPET shall take place to-morrow, Monday the 21st.
- II. The place of Execution shall be *La Place, de la Revolution, ci-devant Louis XV.* between the Pedestal and the Elysian Fields.
- III. Louis CAPET shall leave the Temple by eight o'clock in the morning, and the Execution shall take place at noon.
- IV. Commissaries from the department of Paris, Commissaries from the Municipality, and two members of the *Tribunal Criminal*; shall assist at the Execution. The Secretary of the tribunal shall draw up the *Process-verbal*; and the said Commissaries and Members of the Tribunal, immediately after the Execution, shall render an account of it to the Council, who will remain sitting during the whole day.
- V. Louis CAPET shall pass by the *Boulevards* to the place of Execution.

By the Executive Provisional Council,

ROLAND,	MONGE,	GARAT,
CLAVIERE,	LEBRUN,	PASCHE.

By order of the Council,

GRONVILLE, Secretary.

On which the period of his Fate, and the day of Execution, took Place, and was as follows:

At six o'clock in the morning he took his last farewell of the Queen and Royal Family, and was with them some time; the parting was

The last WILL and TESTAMENT of LOUIS, XVI.

IN the name of the Holy Trinity, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: This day, the 21st day of Dec. 1792, I, Louis the XVIth, of that name, King of France, having been for more than four months shut up with my family in the Tower of the Temple at Paris, by those who were my subjects, and deprived of every kind of communication with my family since the 11th of this month; and being moreover involved in a trial, of which, from the passions of mankind, it is impossible to foresee the event, and for which neither pretext nor precedent can be found in any existing law; having no witness of my thoughts but God, and no one but him to whom I can address myself, I here declare, in his presence, my last Will and Sentiments.

I leave my soul to God, my Creator. I implore him to receive it in his mercy, and not to judge it according to its merits, but according to those of our Lord Jesus Christ, who offered himself as a sacrifice to God, his Father, for us men, unworthy as we are, and especially myself. I die in the Communion of our Catholic, Apostolic, and Roman Mother Church, which holds its powers by an uninterrupted succession from St. Peter, to whom Jesus Christ had entrusted them. I firmly believe, and I confess, all that is contained in the commandments of God and the Church—in the Sacraments and Mysteries which the Church teaches, and has always taught. I have never presumed to make myself a judge as to the different manners of explaining the doctrines which divide the Church of Jesus Christ; but I have always referred myself, and shall always refer myself, if God shall grant me life, to the Decisions which the Superior Ecclesiastics united to the Holy Catholic Church give and shall give, conformably to the discipline of the Church, following the Jesus Christ.

I lament with my whole heart our brethren who may be in error: but I do not presume to judge them; and I do not the less love them all in Jesus Christ, agreeably to what christian charity teaches us.

I implore God to pardon me all my sins. I have endeavoured scrupulously to know them, to detest them, and to humble myself in his presence.

Not having it in my power to avail myself of the ministry of a Catholic Priest, I implore God to receive the confession which I have made to him; and, above all, my profound repentance for having put my name (although it was contrary to my will) to those acts which may be contrary to the discipline and the belief of the Catholic Church, to which I have always remained sincerely united in my heart. I implore God to receive the resolution I entertain, should he grant me life, to avail myself, as soon as it shall be in my power, of the ministry of a Catholic Priest, to accuse myself of all my sins, and to receive the sacraments of penitence.

I beseech all those whom by inadvertence I may have offended (for I do not recollect ever knowingly to have committed any offence against any one), or those to whom I may have given a bad example, or occasion for scandal, to pardon me the evil which they think I may have done them.

I beseech all those who have charity to unite their prayers to my own, to obtain from God the pardon of my sins.

I pardon, with my whole heart, those who have made themselves my enemies, without my having given them any cause; and I pray to God, that he will pardon them, as well as those who, by a false zeal, or by a zeal ill-understood, have done me much evil.

I recommend to God, my wife, my children, my sister, my aunts, my brothers, and all those who are attached to me by the ties of blood, or in any other manner whatsoever.

I especially implore God to cast the eyes of his mercy upon my wife, my children, and my sister, who have for so long a time suffered with me—to support them by his Grace, should they happen to lose me, so long as they shall remain in this perishable world.

I recommend my children to my wife: I have never doubted of her maternal tenderness for them. I recommend to her to make them good Christians, and honest; to induce them to consider the grandeur of this world (should they be condemned to make trial of them) as no other than dangerous and perishable possessions; and to turn their view to the only solid and durable glory of eternity.

I beseech my sister, to be pleased to continue her tenderness to my children, and to supply to them the place of a mother, should they have the misfortune to lose their own.

I beseech my wife to forgive me all those evils which she suffers for me, and the uneasiness which I may have given her in the course of our union; as she may be assured, that I retain nothing in mind respecting her, should she imagine that she has any reason to reproach herself with respect to me.

I earnestly recommend to my children, after what they owe to God, which they ought to consider as prior to every thing else, to remain always united among themselves, submissive and obedient to their mother, and grateful to her for all the pains she has taken for them, and in memory of me.

I beseech them to consider my sister as a second mother. I recommend to my son, should he have the misfortune to become a King, to reflect that he owes himself entirely to the happiness of his Fellow-Citizens; that he ought to forget all hatred and resentment, and especially of all which has a reference to the misfortune and miseries which I experience; that he cannot effect the happiness of the people, but by reigning according to the laws; but that, at the same time, a King cannot make those respected, or do the good which is in his heart, unless he possess the necessary authority; and that otherwise being confined in his operations, and commanding no respect, he is more hurtful than useful.

I recommend to my son to take care of all those persons who have been attached to me, as far as the circumstances in which he may find himself shall give him an opportunity; to reflect that this is a sacred debt which I have contracted towards the children or the relations of those who have perished for my sake, and towards those who have become miserable on my account.

I know there are several persons in the number of those who were attached to me, who have not behaved towards me as they ought to have done, and who have even shown ingratitude towards me: but I forgive them, (for, in the moments of trouble and effervescence, one is not always master of one's self,) and I beseech my son, should he find an opportunity, to reflect only on their misfortunes. I wish I could here testify my thankfulness to those who have manifested towards me a true and disinterested attachment. On the one hand, if I have been sensibly affected by the ingratitude and disloyalty of those to whom I have never acted but with kindness, as well to themselves as to their relations and friends; on the other, I have had the consolation to see the voluntary attachment and interest which many persons have shewn me. I beseech them to receive all my thanks for this: In the situation in which things yet are, I should fear to commit them, were I to speak more explicitly; but I especially recommend to my son, to seek opportunities of being able to acknowledge them.

I should, however, conceive, that I calumniated the sentiments of the Nation, were I not openly to recommend to my son M. M. de Chamilly and Hu, whose sincere attachment to me has induced them to shut themselves up with me in this sorrowful abode, and who have been in danger of becoming the unhappy victims of that attachment. I also recommend to him Clergy, with whose attention I have every reason to be satisfied since he has been with me, as he is the person who has remained with me to the end. I beseech M. de la Commune to deliver to him my effects, my books, my watch, and the other articles of my property, which have been deposited with the Council de Commune.

I moreover fully pardon those who have guarded me—the ill-treatments and harshness which they thought it their duty to use towards me. I have found some feeling and compassionate souls; may these enjoy in their hearts that tranquility to which their mode of thinking should entitle them!

I beseech M. M. de Melchierbes, Tronchet, and Desze, to receive here my utmost thanks, and the expression of my sensibility, for all the pains and trouble they have been at on my account.

I conclude by declaring, before God, and being ready to appear before him, that I do not reproach myself with any of those crimes which have been charged against me.

Duplicates of this instrument made at the Tower of the Temple, the 21st Dec. 1792.

(Signed)
(Inscribed)

LOUIS.
BAUBRAT,
Municipal Officer.